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ABSTRACT

Guidelines and materials used at Iowa Wesleyan College (IWC) to plan homestay weekends for foreign students are presented. The IWC program is designed to help international students develop English listening and speaking skills, have students experience American home life, and promote intercultural communication and understanding. The materials include: a program outline to inform prospective host families; an application form for American hosts; a contract between American hosts and the IWC department of English as a Second Language (ESL); a host family notification letter; guidelines for speaking with limited-English-proficient (LEP) students; information sent to hosts concerning general and course-specific topics for discussion; a form for use by students in evaluating their homestay experiences; program information for prospective students; a student notification form; a student homestay application; a student homestay contract; a finalizing letter to hosts; and an end-of-year followup letter to hosts. (MSE)

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ED 362 032

Establishing an IEP monthly weekend homestay

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Presented at the 27th Annual TESOL Convention
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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

HOW TO ESTABLISH A HOMESTAY PROGRAM

A. Find a committed coordinator
- -has had a home stay experience
- -is involved in community projects/social clubs or service organizations

B. Experiment before you start
- -coordinator's home
- -one time larger experiment

C. Planning details
- -is it for you?
- -when? How often?
- -stipend for families?

D. Recruiting families/Where to look?
- -the above experiment helps
- -church organizations
- -college profs/staff/non-trad. students/student connections
- -places to look
- -collecting applications

E. Interviewing the host family
- -sign the contract
- -check references
- -ask to see sleeping arrangements
- -give lots of reassurance and support
- -tell your experiences

F. Student preparation
- -do role play
- -teach American hygiene habits
- -teach American family life
- -application/requirements
- -contract

G. Communication with host families
- -about the first weekend homestay
- -letters
- -phone calls

H. Evaluation
- -each month
- -end of program

I. Experiences

DOCUMENT #1: PROGRAM INFO FOR PROSPECTIVE HOSTS

IOWA WESLEYAN COLLEGE
English as a Second Language (ESL) Program
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

What is the purpose of the IWC-ESL Program?

To improve the English skills of non-English speaking international students so that they can be successful as regularly enrolled students at IWC.

What is the purpose of the IWC-ESL homestay program?

To develop the students' listening and speaking skills.
To have students become comfortable speaking with Americans.
To have students experience American home life firsthand and contrast it with life in the residence halls.
To promote intercultural understanding.

Who are we looking for?

Families in the Mt. Pleasant area that are willing to host an IWC-ESL student for seven weekends during the academic year. Families will receive some compensation (see contract).

What will students be like?

Only students that receive a 2.0 GPA in the ESL classes will be eligible. Students will volunteer for this program and will sign a contract agreeing to the policies of the program. Since it is an optional part of their education, the students that do sign up are generally interested and show a willingness to learn about American life.

What are the benefits for the host family?

1. It is a unique opportunity for cross-cultural learning. Members of the family can develop a new appreciation for how others live and view the world. (Global education starts at home!)
2. It is a chance to build a personal tie with people from another nation. Memories of a student's stay often become part of that family's experiences together that will last a lifetime.

What is required of a host family?

1. Fill out an application.
2. Phone conference and possible visit by an ESL instructor.
3. Sign a contract to offer your services.

Questions??

Contact: Mary Harris
ESL Instructor
Office:
Home:

Steven Eau Claire
ESL Instructor
Office:
Home:

or leave a message at the IWC switchboard: 319/385-8021.

DOCUMENT #2:

APPLICATION FOR AMERICAN HOSTS
IWC-ESL Homestay Program
Iowa Wesleyan College
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____

Occupation: (husband) _____ Daytime Phone: _____

(wife) _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Names and birth years of children: _____

_____

_____

Membership in civic and professional organizations: _____

_____

_____

Hobbies and special interests: _____

_____

Student Preference: Male Female Either

(Please circle one keeping in mind that IWC-ESL classes have been predominantly make in the past.)

Languages spoken: _____

Countries interested in: _____

Countries traveled in: _____

Character references: (Please list two.) _____

_____

_____

Yes No I would consider hosting a student that smokes on condition that he smokes outside of the house.

DOCUMENT #3:

IWC - ESL HOMESTAY CONTRACT

The following conditions are understood in the agreement to provide weekend homestays for ESL students from Iowa Wesleyan College.

1) Room and board will be provided by the host family from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon (slightly different schedule for Thanksgiving) for seven prescribed weekends during the academic year:

October 9, 10, 11	February 19, 20, 21
November 6, 7, 8	March 19, 20, 21
November 25 - Nov. 29 (Thanksgiving break)	April 16, 17, 18
January 15, 16, 17	

2) The host family understands that they are providing a service for the student and IWC, and the payment received is intended to help with expenses.

3) The host family will adopt the ESL student as a temporary member of the family as part of that student's English and American cultural training. It will make a better experience for all involved if he/she is treated more as a son/daughter than as a guest. If family members take their dishes to the sink after the meal, the student should be instructed to do the so also. If the family attends religious services, the student should attend if only as an observer. (Note that it is the policy of the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs that proselytizing is not acceptable.) Students should not be expected to do chores, but can be asked to help another family member as conversation practice will probably result. This arrangement will be explained to the student beforehand.

4) If the host family is unable to fulfill this obligation due to an emergency, illness, or long distance travel, they will make arrangements for the student to reside with another family member or friend (preferably one the student has already met) and will pay that person accordingly. IWC Vice President for Student Affairs or either of the two ESL instructors should be notified ahead of time of such a change when possible.

5) A separate bed must be provided.

6) It should be remembered that the students will need to study as part of their weekend.

7) Host families may chose between receiving a $25 stipend monthly or gift credit to IWC. (The Thanksgiving weekend will be $50.) Checks will be issued at the end of each month.

8) Students are not to be used as babysitters.

9) In the case of incompatibility, IWC will first try to work things out between the student and host family, but it reserves the right to withdraw a student with the understanding that no learning will take place when the student and family are at an impasse.

10) Students will be signing up on a volunteer basis and will understand that they will not be allowed to cancel except for illness verified by a doctor's statement. Students will be advised that travel and special visits from friends should be scheduled around these prescribed dates. Student permission to cancel must be obtained from the ESL department or Vice President for Student Affairs. If a student becomes noticeably ill during a homestay

must return to the residence hall, please notify an ESL instructor or the IWC switchboard (385-8021) with the student's name and time when he or she returned to campus.

11) If a student drops out, families will be paid for the weekend(s) attended.

12) Families and students are responsible for coordinating transportation. Host families should contact the college switchboard (385-8021) if the student doesn't arrive on Friday as planned. After you have inquired about the student, you may call Steve or Mary at home. (We have not had problems in this area. Most students are anxious to visit!)

13) Acceptance as a host family does not automatically guarantee a student will be placed with that family. Since the program is on a volunteer basis with the students, IWC will not know the exact number of families needed until after the sign up. Notification of student placement will occur on or before Oct. 5, 1992.

14) IWC discourages the offering of alcoholic beverages to the student.

15) Students will be assigned to a host for the weekends indicated. Although the relationship may well continue beyond that time, we hope that hosts will make themselves available to another student the following year.

16) If you are unhappy with the situation or your student seems to be having a difficult time adjusting, please call and talk to the aforementioned personnel before the next scheduled weekend arrives.

Host signature(s)

_____

_____

ESL department signature

_____

Date

_____

DOCUMENT #4: NOTIFYING THE HOST

IWC-ESL
Iowa Wesleyan College
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641

Sept.13,1991

Dear family,

_____(pronounced _____) has been selected to be your international student for the IWC-ESL homestay program.

Enclosed find:

the application that he or she filled out,
a "Friendship with a Foreign Student" brochure,
guidelines for working with limited English speakers,
a list of important telephone numbers, and
a list of topics for discussion related to classwork.

Remember not to treat your student as royalty or they might come to expect it and you could be miserable! If you eat corn flakes for breakfast, they can eat cornflakes. The usual family routine should be followed.

Please don't give the student a choice of not participating in an activity. If your family has scheduled an activity, tell the student when he or she should be ready to go.

It looks like an exciting year, and I'm glad you are part of it!

Sincerely,

Mary J.G. Harris
ESL Instructor

DOCUMENT #5:

GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKING WITH LIMITED ENGLISH STUDENTS

1. Keep sentence structure and vocabulary simple, but avoid the me-Tarzan-you-Jane approach. Be prepared to explain yourself if you use slang or local expressions.

2. Try to ask questions that do not call for a yes/no answer. Some foreign students will say yes just to be polite.

3. Rephrase what you have said-do not repeat it. If your listener did not understand you the first time, saying a word or phrase over and over again isn't going to make it any clearer. Try saying it a different way, using different words. And don't shout. Writng out the question or word on the chalkboard or a piece of paper may help.

4. When the student communicates something complex to you, try rephrasing it in your own words to be sure you have understood what was said and to provide an English-language model for the student's idea or question.

5. Sharpen your listening skills. Listen carefully to what students have to say and how they are saying it. Listen to tone of voice, how it is paced and watch for body movements. Don't finish slow speakers' sentences for them-it will only make them more nervous.

6. Be sensitive to the emotional state of your conversation partner. Many foreign students in this country are under very intense pressures. Not only are the language problems real and terrifying, but financial pressures, strange foods, lack of close friends and family, and worry about what's going on back home all take a toll on students new to this country.

7. Use the experience to try to learn about another country. You could share articles out of the newspaper that have something to do with your conversation partner's country...or talk about world news, customs, culture, traditions and holidays. (more topics provided later)

8. Finally, just remember that, basically, human beings are more alike than they are different. Politeness, consideration, caring, and sensitivity will yield positive responses in all people.

Adapted from "The International Student and Course-Integrated Instruction: The Librarians Perspective" by Joan Ormondroyd, RESEARCH STRATEGIES, Fall 1989.

DOCUMENT #6: INFO SENT TO HOSTS

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

These students arrived Sept. 2. Their orientation included a videotaping of an impromptu speech, an oral interview, taking the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) to determine placement, a trip to Burlington to get social security numbers and sightseeing (Welcome Center, Port of Burlington, Starr's Caves, Snake Alley, Mosquito Park and Westland Mall), a tour of Home Furniture, Steve's apartment, Dr. Yoder's house, Mary's house, and the bank.

Students have begun reading American Ways by Gary Althen. We have started to discuss American individuality and family life. Required reading is The Mt. Pleasant News as of Sept. 16. Their classes are to help strengthen their skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking and understanding Americans.

Please give a total tour of the house including furnace room and air-conditioning unit or any other appliance that may make interesting noises.

OCTOBER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

You may ask your student about these activities that have been part of our class experience since the last homestay:

-seeing a presentation about American Indian artifacts by Orlendes "Pat" Ross of Mt. Pleasant. He let the students touch stone hammers and axes, arrowheads, knives and shark and mastodon teeth that he had found in Henry County.

-a trip to Kalona for the Fall Hertitage Festival and a side trip to the Kalona Cheese Factory. Yes, we saw some horse and buggies.

-a visit to Grasshopper Green Preschool where we observed, helped and shared in their project for the day, making and eating apple fritters.

- a tour of the Mt.Pleasant News office and presses.

-IWC's homecoming festivities.

-a tour and visitation of residents at Pleasant Manor Care Center.

These chapters in their American orientation book, American Ways, have been discussed in class:

-Introduction
-Family Life
-Education
-Personal Hygiene
-Behavior in Public Places
-Studying
-The Communicative Style of Americans

DOCUMENT #7: EVALUATION BY STUDENTS

PLEASE BE HONEST AND DIRECT WHEN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS.
(The host families will NOT see this paper!!!!)
HOMESTAY PROGRAM EVALUATION (by the student)

Name:_____

Host family's last name:_____

1. How would you rate your IWC-ESL homestay experience?
   Circle one:

Excellent Good So-so Not so good Horrible

2. How would you rate yourself in the homestay? (Did you ask questions? Did you learn new information? Did you spend a lot of time using English?)
   Circle one:

Excellent Good So-so Not so good Horrible

3. How would you rate your host family's friendliness?
   Circle one:

Excellent Good So-so Not so good Horrible

4. How would you rate your sleeping arrangements?

Excellent Good So-so Not so good Horrible

5. How would you rate the food at your host family's house?

Excellent Good So-so Not so good Horrible

6. Would you recommend that IWC-ESL use this family again in the future? Circle one: YES NO

7. What activities did you do for the first time in the United States with your host family?

8. What activities(if any)did you tell the family that you did not want to do?

9. Please write some suggestions of how a host family could help you learn more English.

10. Please write down any idea you think might help this program.

(You may explain or make comments about questions 1-6 on the back of this paper.)

DOCUMENT #8:

PROGRAM INFO FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

The IWC-ESL Homestay Program

.....offers international students a chance to observe American family life for one weekend a month between October and May.

Students will be treated as a member of the family, not as a guest in a hotel. Hopefully, you'll learn to laugh and joke along with them.

Students will try new food and activities.

Students will meet new people and talk about their home country and family.

Students will have a separate bed in the home.

IWC-ESL staff personally screens homes and families to try to provide a good experience for the students.

Students are usually nervous the first weekend, but so are the hosts! Everyone tries to build a good friendship, and everyone understands that there can be communication troubles. Hosts don't expect your English to be perfect; they just want you to continue trying to use it!

TRY THE IWC HOMESTAY PROGRAM.....
YOU'LL LEARN MORE THAN TEXTBOOKS CAN TEACH!!!

How to sign up?

1. Receive a 2.0 grade average in your ESL classes. Then you may chose to participate or not. Mary will ask you to fill out a special application.
2. Show Mary and Steve that you are interested in improving your English. Speak English as often as you can.
   Be friendly towards other people.
   Show your willingness to try to understand new experiences.
   Show that you are not afraid to ask questions.

DOCUMENT #9: NOTIFYING THE STUDENT

Congratulations,_____! You are about to begin a very interesting learning experience. You will join the millions of language learners that have lived in a homestay program and found that it is a wonderful way to learn a language.

All families will be compassionate and friendly or we will find you another family. All homestay situations will not be equal because Americans take pride in being unique and being comfortable in their own ways. Also the amount of family income will make a difference, as well as the age of the children. Yet many things will be similar, as you have already seen in the three houses we've toured. All families have signed a contract agreeing to treat you as a member of their family. It's going to be a great year!

You will be staying with the_____family.

They will meet you Friday, September 20,

BE CURIOUS! ASK QUESTIONS! IF YOU DON'T ASK QUESTIONS, THE FAMILY MIGHT THINK YOU ARE BORED WITH THEM OR UNHAPPY.

(even short questions like "Where did you get that? Did you buy that here? Why do you use this? Why do Americans _____? Do all Americans do this?)

If you don't understand your host family's English, ask them to speak slowly or explain it differently or write it down for you . Don't be embarrassed to say you don't understand, the family will not ridicule you. The families want to help you and to learn about you and your country. Don't forget, they will be nervous, too!

HAPPY AMERICAN ADVENTURE!

DOCUMENT #10:

STUDENT APPLICATION FOR IWC-ESL HOMESTAY PROGRAM

RETURN TO MARY HARRIS ON OR BEFORE NOON, JAN. 22, 1993

Date:_____

Name:_____ _____
(first name) (family name)

Age:_____ Date of Birth:_____

Sex: (circle one) male female

Are you a smoker? (circle one) yes no

(Please don't lie. Placement is still possible, but host families don't like surprises.)

If you answered yes, would you agree to smoke outside the house and less often? yes no

Hometown and country:_____ _____
(city name) (country)

Name of IWC residence hall: (circle one) McKibbin S-T Hall

Room number:_____

Telephone number nearest your room:___385-_____

Father's occupation:_____

Mother's occupation:_____

Names and ages of brothers and sisters:

(first name)	(age)	(circle one)
_____	_____	male female
_____	_____	male female
_____	_____	male female

List your hobbies, sports and special interests:

Complete the following :

1. Describe your personality and good qualities. Why should a family trust you in their home?

2. This is my (first,second, third) visit to the United States.
circle one If you circle second or third, please explain where you visited, when, and why:

3.I have (some no) food restrictions.
circle one If you circle some, please describe:

4. I came to Iowa Wesleyan College because

DOCUMENT #11:

IWC-ESL Student Homestay Contract

The following conditions are understood in the agreement to participate in the IWC-ESL weekend homestay program. Do not sign this agreement if you feel you can not follow these conditions. Please check each box when you understand and agree.

1. I plan to arrange my activities around the following dates:

October 9, 10, 11	February 19, 20, 21
November 6, 7, 8	March 19, 20, 21
November 25 - 29 (Thanksgiving)	April 16, 17, 18
January 15, 16, 17	

2. I will plan to stay with the family from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon, unless transportation to my host's house must be arranged with a different schedule.

3 I promise that I will not call the family to change the date because my friends want me to do fun activities with them.

4. If I am sick I will notify Steve or Mary before noon on the Friday of the homestay. (Children of homestay families often cry if they hear the news at the last minute.)

5. I understand that I am not to be a guest, but a member of the family. I do not need entertainment. When all family members are busy, I should ask to join them, help them, watch them, talk with them while they do an activity. I can also do my homework.

6. I understand that the family wants me to learn English. I will always take my assignments and do the interviews with my host family.

7. I understand that Americans are not accustomed to leaving new friends in their home alone, so I will attend religious services to observe or go to the store to look and ask questions.

8. I understand that I will not be asked to do chores alone, but I may be asked to help another family member if conversation practice or a new learning experience will result.

9. I will try new foods and activities. I understand it is OK to say I don't like it AFTER I have tried the food or activity. (EXCEPTION: YOU MAY SAY NO TO BUNGEE JUMPING or any dangerous activity!)

10. I will try to listen to the conversation during mealtime and my eyes will watch the speakers as they talk.

11. I understand that I will have a bed to myself.

12. I understand that I am not a baby-sitter, but I can learn a lot of English by playing with children.

13. I promise I will tell Mary if I have a problem with my host family.

14. I understand that the homestay program is not required I will not receive a letter grade for participating. (Hopefully, you will learn more than in a class.)

15. I understand that for this program to be successful, I must be curious about American family life. I must try to ask questions about their home, and their life or they will think I am not interested in learning from them.

16. I understand that if I get ill during a homestay weekend, the family will care for me like they would care for their own family members.

17. I PROMISE TO SLEEP WELL THE NIGHT BEFORE THE HOMESTAY. I UNDERSTAND THAT AMERICANS THINK YOU ARE SICK IF YOU SLEEP DURING THE DAY (10 a.m. - 10 p.m.)

18. I understand that Mary must know about any changes in plans.

19. I understand that I must listen and repeat transportation plans. Time is very important to Americans. DON'T BE LATE. BE EARLY. Call your host if you know there will be a delay.

20. I understand that I will not invite guests to come with me.

21. I understand that when I want something I should ask, "May I...?" I will respect the private property of my host family.

22. I understand that I must speak English in an American home. It is very RUDE to speak your language when you are able to use English, and it will make the host uncomfortable and often unfriendly.

23. I understand that Mary or Steve may dismiss me from this program if I don't follow these conditions, or if my GPA goes below 2.0 If I am unhappy with my host family, Mary will work with me and the family to make the homestay more enjoyable.

_____
student's signature

_____
ESL instructor

_____
date

DOCUMENT #12:

IWC-ESL
Iowa Wesleyan College
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641

October 8, 1991

Greetings, Host Family!

Your IWC-ESL student is anxiously awaiting the Oct. 18-20 visit with you. This time you and the student will be making transportation plans together. When you contact the student, ask for a confirmation of time and place of pick-up. Hopefully this second visit is when the student will show more physical signs of being relaxed around your family.

You may be interested in some of the **feedback** that I have received from the students (It was all positive.):

"I was surprised that my host family was so friendly."

"The children were so cute and friendly."

"In Japan we ignore foreigners."

"My family in Japan doesn't talk when we eat dinner. I was surprised about American conversation."

"We invite one friend over for lunch or a snack, but not the evening meal."

"In my home, parents eat in one room and the children eat in another. Here everyone eats together."
"

These comments may or may not be the situation with your student,but you could certainly ask to find out!

IWC's Family Day is scheduled for Nov. 9. Your student will be relaying an invitation to you and your family to be our guests for a luncheon that day. We will be reserving some tables in the Social Hall for families involved with the IWC-ESL program to give you the opportunity to meet each other, the other ESL students, President Bob Prins, Steve and I.The luncheon will be at no cost to you, but we will need reservations. Your student will bring more information. Please feel free to decline. This is not required of you, but attendance by even one family member would make the day special. We'll plan to share families if you can't make it!

An assignment was given over the Sept. homestay weekend that asked the student to interview you. Only 50% of the homestay program students chose

to do so; the other half opted to interview a college student instead. I think one of the hardest things I have to teach some students is the idea that it's OK to ask questions. If your student has thus far not asked much, please understand that asking a question will be a major accomplishment for him or her. If conversation comes to a stand-still, suggest that the student ask you a question about something in the room, on the table, in a picture, etc. Questions like "What's that?" or "Where did you get that?" will hopefully be the result.

The students have been invited to participate in a **Christmas holiday homestay program.** Christmas International House, a program sponsored by different groups such as churches, councils of churches, or community organizations in locations all over the United States and Friendship International House at Christmas, a program sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian ministry also in various locations, have made available two week homestays that will cost the student only 25 dollars and transportation. Students should not ask to stay with you during Christmas.

If a student does something bothersome, gently point out that it is a house rule or you do not permit your children to _____. Asking them nicely not to break that rule again should be tried or simply state that everyone in your house does _____ and since that student is a temporary member, and you are the temporary mother or father, he or she should also _____. Let me know how it goes. The longer bothersome habits go unchecked, the harder they will be to reform.

We'll be in touch!

Sincerely,

Mary Harris

enc: Topics for Discussion

DOCUMENT #13

April 22, 1992

Dear host families,

MAY 1 - 3 IS THE LAST HOMESTAY FOR THE SEMESTER! This will be the final homestay for several of the ESL students. We hope the weather will be great to show off Iowa's great springtime!

If you are interested in continuing the homestay with students that arrived in January, please contact me.

Students have been reminded that the contract they signed to enroll in this program stated their willingness to adhere to your schedule. Please continue to advise students of your plans. I feel that if the student sleeps during the time he or she could be learning English from your family, that student should be dismissed from this program.

I recently asked the students to tell me what I should teach the next group of homestay students before they visit homes next fall. From the enclosed comments, I'd say they are learning a lot about American customs and habits from you. Thanks!

Call me if I can help with May arrangements.

Sincerely,

ADVICE FOR NEW ESL HOMESTAY STUDENTS

-Be prepared to listen to fast English.
-Learn how to talk about the customs of your country in English.
-Be ready to talk about politics, government, religion, hobbies and culture of your own country
-Be ready to talk about what you did during the day or week during the mealtime. American families like to ask and talk about their experiences of the day.
-Use your home country as a topic for conversation. Example, " In my country we do ___. What do you do here ?
-Students must listen a lot and ask questions or Americans will continue talking without you.
-Try to understand the host family's situation.
-Try everything that's new to you.
-Sometimes Americans wear shoes in the house, but sometimes they don't.
-Playing with the children is good for your English.

-Speak with the family as much as you can.
-Be ready to make conversation with the parents.
-Some families are more active than others, but you can learn and practice English with anyone.
-Remember to help the family. We are not guests.
-American teenagers talk quickly and use a lot of slang.
-Homes are not as warm as the dormitory. You cannot wear T-shirts and shorts in homes during the winter.
-Houses are large and are usually cleaned once a week.
-Learn that it is proper to start eating when the host or hostess begins eating unless they say to go ahead and start without them.
-Some Americans say a prayer before a meal.
-Ask "Pass me the salt, please." Don't stand up and reach across the table to get it yourself.
-Americans will eat a lot, and will worry if you don't eat much.
-It's OK to ask "May I have some more to eat?" If you don't ask, the family will think you are not hungry.
-Americans say nothing to officially finish the mealtime.
-Americans don't eat seaweed and usually don't eat food with a vinegar taste (sour).
-Learn how Americans pass the food around the table and have a conversation at the same time. They eat and talk, listen and watch each other at the same time!
-Americans will worry about your health (they will think you are sick) if you sleep too much.
-Americans go to bed early and wake up early. Students should follow this schedule when visiting.
-Try to learn about the weather and the stars you see at night from your host family.
-Try to talk about any topic. They like you to try to ask questions. It's OK to say that you don't know an answer to their questions.
-A small dictionary is useful.
-When students go to the church services with the family, they should observe Americans' habits and behaviors and ask questions later about it.
-Try to use what you learn in class during the month to help make conversation.